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NATURAL GAS FOR THE CAROLINAS

WHEN you stop to think that North and South Carolina are two of only four states in the nation without access to natural gas from the Southwest, the continuing controversy before the Federal Power Commission takes on a new urgency.

Two companies which propose to serve the Piedmont area of the Carolinas are in the picture.

One, the Piedmont Natural Gas Corp., is seeking permission to build a pipe line from the Texas fields through the Piedmont area and on to the port cities of Virginia. Its application to serve the Virginia cities is being opposed by Commonwealth Natural Gas Corp. which would like to serve that area.

An FPC hearing on this point has been under way for several months. If Piedmont wins, it will likely start on its big project without delay. If it loses those lucrative terminal points, the Carolinas alone might not offer enough consumption to make the line worthwhile.

Now a new company has been formed, the Carolina Natural Gas Corp. It does not plan to build a new line. It proposes rather to buy gas from another line authorized for the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp., and distribute it in this area. Transcontinental has been authorized to serve Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York, and is presently seeking FPC permission to expand its capacity and extend its line on into New England.

This week in Washington, Carolina will intervene in the Transcontinental expansion hearing and ask that a portion of that firm's natural gas be allocated to the Carolinas, and that Carolina be permitted to distribute it.

It is impossible to know at this point what ruling the FPC will make. The people of the two states have no preference between the companies but will merely insist that some concern be permitted to bring natural gas to the Carolinas.

Natural gas has many advantages over other types of fuel. It is cheaper, hotter, and cleaner, and it is equally useful in industries and homes. If this area is to compete successfully with other industrial sections, it must have equal fuel resources.

NOTHING TO LOSE IN THIS DEAL

THE suggestion that Charlotte should go ahead and ask that Federal funds be reserved for a local redevelopment program, even though the N. C. General Assembly has not yet passed the requisite enabling act, appears to fall into the everything-to-gain and nothing-to-lose category.

Members of the local redevelopment study commission have had the idea that the Federal Government would not entertain a request for an allocation until an enabling act was on the books and a complete program mapped out.

That's not the case, according to Nathaniel S. Keith, director of the slum clearance and urban redevelopment in the Housing & Home Agency Finance Agency. Charlotte can ask that some money be reserved for this city right now, and work out the details later.

The main reason why this should be done now is that the original $200,000,000 fund set up by Congress is rapidly being depleted. Many cities in the United States are much farther along with their slum clearance programs than Charlotte is, and have sent in their requests.

The reservation is not binding. It does not commit the City to see a redevelopment plan to completion. It merely assures Charlotte that money will be available (1) when the General Assembly acts, and (2) when the slum clearance plan is worked out.

Atlanta is asking for $3,000,000. What will Charlotte's request be?

THE NEW CHURCH

IS the church becoming a more potent force in our lives? Figures indicate that it is and that is, of course, a good thing. It might be worthwhile to examine the reasons for the tremendous (80,000,000) membership in churches, the widespread and heavily attended revival meetings, the spontaneous religious outbursts all over the land.

This religious activity has caused many of us to wonder whether the fear of another war might not be an important factor in the public search for spiritual guidance.

Probably it is. It is true that, now as never before, man needs a super spiritual force to combat the super material force of the atomic bomb. A look at the figures, however, would indicate that there is something deeper in the continuing and growing strength of the church than superficial fear of atomic war.

Long before the first explosion at Los Alamos, this great flowering of religion in America had begun.

The vigorous religious revival of the 1880's probably started it—and since that time, church membership has been increasing steadily—more rapidly, in fact, than the population.

In 1880 church membership represented only 20 per cent of the population, but by 1920 it represented 40 per cent. Now the church claims about 55 per cent of the population.

It must be realized, of course, that part of this growth is due to the construction of more churches, their convenience to worshippers and to better transportation in both rural and urban areas.

One of the leading causes of church membership gains is so obvious it might be overlooked: the encroachment of the machine into our lives.

There was a day when a man could walk a hundred yards from his dwelling place and find a natural temple, a quiet place where he could worship as he pleased. He could worship without a formal church. But today there are fewer quiet places; the sound and sight of machines covers all. The church has, in a sense become a refuge from the sometimes intolerable industrial age.

Probably the most important reason for the church's growth is that it had widened its service to the public and thereby widened its appeal.

Once the church was but a stern dictator of public morality; it has learned—but recently—that it can achieve better results by guidance. Thus the church has sought to become a part of the community, a gathering place where neighbors might meet for supper, might discuss community problems, might engage in recreation; and where once the worshipper subjected himself to an intensive spell of dogma each Sunday, he now feels the gentler influence of the church throughout the week.

LOOPHOLE FOR CONGRESSMEN

A REPUBLICAN Congressman from Florida has introduced a bill which ought to be passed, but which will doubtless wind up in a Rules Committee pigeon hole. His measure: to require a roll call vote on all House money bills.

When a roll call is forced, members have to record their votes. In a voice vote or standing vote, observers can't tell who votes for what. Rep. Dwight L. Rogers, who tossed the new bill into the hopper last week, figures quite correctly that Congressmen would be more reluctant to vote for overstuffed spending bills if their votes are recorded.

House rules require a roll call vote on money bills only when one-fifth of the members present demand it. One day last week, a $163,000,000 postal pay raise measure whooped through the House on a standing vote. Only 24 members insisted on a roll call vote, and that wasn't enough. The bill gives pay boosts up to $500 yearly for World War II veterans who entered the postal service after their war service.

A day later, a $36,000,000 Federal aid to State libraries bill went down to defeat after opponents mustered enough support to demand a roll call. Once the Congressmen found they were to be recorded, their ardor for this measure cooled, and it lost by a 164 to 151 vote. It would probably have passed easily had a standing vote been taken.

Rep. Rogers' bill will be pigeon-holed for the very simple reason that Congressmen would be embarrassed if their constituents should find out when they vote to spend more money, especially in an election year. It's an old dodge, and it reminds us, in case we forget, that spineless, vote-conscious Congressmen are just as responsible for the sad state of national finances as the spendthrift Administration. They plate of economy, but don't practice it.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CITADEL OF DIRECT ACTION

THERE is a good deal of confusion and uncertainty about the hydrogen and atomic bombs at large in the world—every place but Vaujouse-Fontaine, France, that is.

The town council there has made up its mind. It wants it to be clearly understood that it won't stand for anybody roaming at large within the town limits with a hydrogen bomb or two at hand. Apparently it doesn't even care whether or not the darn things are loaded. It passed an ordinance prohibiting both use and carrying of the bombs.

Regrettably, the council can't do anything about those who would skulk with a bomb in their pockets just outside the town gates. This, however, may not do would-be skulkers much good. If bomb-carriers consult such standard tomes as Webster's and Rand-McNally's atlases they not only won't be able to find where the town limits are—they won't even be able to find where the town is.

'Step Outside And Say That'

Young Scientists

Teen-Agers Are Different Now

By HERBERT NICHOLS
(In The Christian Science Monitor)

WASHINGTON

FORTY of the smartest high school seniors in America have just finished a memorable five days in Washington and collected their first substantial rewards for dedicating college careers to the study of natural science.

They are the winners of the Ninth Annual Science Talent Search, conducted by the Science Clubs of America for $11,000 in scholarship awards. The Westinghouse Education Foundation donates the cash—with no strings attached.

It was a big moment not only for the ones who got the largest awards of $2,800 and $2,000 but for the "honorable mentions"—200 of them. They worked hard, too. Though they didn't get to Washington this trip, many will receive scholarships from colleges whose "talent scouts" are always "window-shopping" at this time of year.

The favored 40 spent their first day being interviewed by the judges, shaking hands with President Truman and taking in a technological show and inspection tour at the National Bureau of Standards.

By 8 P. M. the following day they began displaying their own projects.

Every one of the 40 had picked out a worth-while corner of natural science to work on. Some chose subjects so abstruse they couldn't be expected to do more than check the work of some predecessor in the field. But some had progressed to the point where they were already making contributions worthy of publication in technical journals.

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WINNIE McPORTLAND from Dorchester, Mass., for example, chose to collect and display the nation's principal metallic minerals. With exercises in many of these, as her statistics showed, somebody is going to have to do some real prospecting in years to come if America is to remain a "have" nation.

Nothing could be further from the workaday world than "topology," exhibited by Phillip Zeidenberg of Brooklyn. He made a "Klein" bottle with no inside and no outside, and his "Mobius" strips reminded one of the paper Christmas strips Junior makes into chains for the tree, except that these had only one surface and only one edge! Puzzle that out if you can; then take a look at the math involved!

Malcolm Gordon, also of Brooklyn, exhibited the results of a survey of fishes off Coney Island, including a ten-spine stickleback, a species of Arctic fish that hadn't been so far south since 1908.

Patricia Jackson made a census of birds found nesting on Long Island. Her sister Cynthia spent hours studying the ways of ants to see if they could learn the shortest path through a labyrinth.

Noel Penney Elliott from Kellogg, Idaho, built a ticktacktoe machine, using electrical relays to take the place of one of the humans in the game. You can't beat this robot without cheating.

Paul J. Cohen of New York City is another mathematical whiz like Zeidenberg. Paul (age 18 and youngest of the 40 finalists) knows already he's going to be a math professor. As captain of a math team, he traced some of the recent major changes in physical theory and it currently working on advanced Einsteinian problems.

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AMONG the mechanically inclined, there is Sol Krongelb from Jersey City who made his own recording and public address system; Joel Finegan of Gary, Indiana, who brought along a telescope-making equipment; Julie Franchere of Portland, Oregon, who turned war surplus radio stuff into a 420 megacycle amateur radio band; and William Tifft of Seymour, Connecticut, another telescope mirror-grinder.

Among prospective chemists present were Alan Sussman of New York and Edel Wasserman of Brooklyn, both fascinated over chemiluminescence (cold light) and fluorescence; Ilsa Steiner of Forest Hills working on ascorbic acid; Donald McCormick of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, with apparatus for extracting lanolin from oak and goldenrod galls; Alice McKinney of Phoenix, Arizona, studying chemicals which can be added to alkaline soils to permit crop growth; Sheldon Glashow from the Bronx, studying selenium; and William Beaver of Albany, New York, with a method of "chromatographic adsorption analysis."

The chap who made everybody's hair stand on end, the chap who shocked the girls (and men, too) was Dennis Philip Malone of Kenmore, New York. He brought along his Van de Graff electrostatic generator, a small edition of the granddaddy of American atom-smashers.

They all speak the language of their respective technical hobbies like old-timers and can spot a phony the minute he opens his mouth.

Peoples Platform

'A Wonderful Story'

DEXTER, Ga.

Editors, THE NEWS:

PLEASE send me the pamphlet on "The Greatest Story Ever Told". It's a wonderful story, and I am glad you are publishing it.

—MRS. H. G. ROWLAND.

Quote, Unquote

Definitions

(Mullins Enterprise)

"When you tighten your belt, its a recession. When you have no belt to tighten, it's a depression. When you have no pants for your belt to hold up, it's a panic."

• • •

Miami Beach has passed an ordinance requiring light clubs to provide at least ten square feet of space per patron. Now a lot of the dancers are going to have to learn some steps.—Fort Myers (Fla.) News Press.

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For the past month or so those who haven't been living on credit haven't been doing much living.—Omega (Ga.) News.

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What this country needs is some new jokes.—Coffeeville (Miss.) Courier.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Russian People Not Unfriendly To U. S.

WASHINGTON

DURING the war, Stalin often held up the United States to the Russian people as an example of the goals which might be attained by Russia. As a result of this and other factors a great deal of good will was built up for the United States inside the Soviet Union. As a further result it is now requiring a great deal of propaganda on the part of the Moscow radio to sell the Russian people on hatred for the USA.

And despite tremendous efforts, so far it hasn't been done.

This is why the problem of winning the peace by making friends with the Russian people, though long and difficult, has at least some points in our favor.

To fully understand our problem of winning the peace, a diagnosis of Russian public opinion is important.

Few people outside Russia realized it, but during Hitler's attack the Communist regime was anything but popular in Russia. In fact, there was such resentment against the Kremlin that some Moscow residents literally hoped the Germans would take over the city and help give them a new government. Hostility got so intense that U. S. diplomats found it expedient to take the American flags off their automobiles, because they were booed and even stoned for shipping arms to help the Communist regime.

Stalin Relents

LATER, however, this hostility changed—as a result of two factors. First, Russia began to win. But more immediate and perhaps more important, Stalin made some shrewd moves to appease Russian opinion. A sort of "nepman"—or private trader—period was inaugurated during which the Russian people were given freedoms they never enjoyed before.

Leaders were selected for ability rather than party affiliation. A modified form of capitalism was permitted in stores and on farms. Collective farmers were permitted to sell part of their crops on the market instead of turning over everything to the state. And the Government even winked at farmers who enlarged their own personal garden plots.

This resulted in much better feeling toward the Communist regime, and, coupled with victories, it brought the Government and people closer together.

Soviet Isolation Returns

A FEW months after the war, however, this was rudely shattered. The old system of tight Communist controls was reinstated with a vengeance. The change took place shortly after the decision not to let American troops and soldiers from the Red Army intermingle and share the time Stalin and Molotov had begun cold-shouldering allied leaders at the Potsdam and San Francisco conferences. Apparently, the Kremlin has made up its mind that Russia not only must remain isolated but that she must begin an aggressive campaign to spread Communism in the rest of the world.

At any rate, there followed a series of repressive measures, a purge of intellectuals and a gigantic propaganda campaign to isolate Russia from the West. Intellectuals were even purged not for what they said and wrote against Communism but for what they failed to say and write for Communism.

Coupled with these repressive measures, the Kremlin has given the Russian people more consumer goods and tried to improve their economic status. This has helped, but not enough.

There still remains widespread resentment against the regime, which has come near breaking into open revolt in such places as the Ukraine. In addition, the transportation and distribution systems are so poor that temporary deprivation and even starvation have resulted in big cities because shipments of foods did not arrive on time. Furthermore, some of the ablest Russian executives have been purged because they were not orthodox Communists, and this has slowed up governmental efficiency.

Seething Satellite States

THE above situation inside Russia, however, is reported to be mild compared with the political seething which exists inside Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

Morris Ernst, the New York Attorney who flew to Vienna to try to defend Robert Vogeler, reports that this area is burning with unrest and ripe for a skillful American propaganda drive. It was this unrest, of course, which finally divorced Yugoslavia from the Russian fold, and it is this unrest which probably caused the trial of Vogeler-Shipkov trials in Hungary and Bulgaria in order to make an example of anyone who dares be sympathetic with Americans.

Today the State Dept.'s Voice of America is doing a competent job of beaming American ideas into Europe. And the fact that the Russians have taken such pains to jam "The Voice" indicates that it is having some impact.

The reason our propaganda effort has been handicapped by lack of funds plus the fact that the State Dept. is inhibited in certain operations merely because it is the State Dept. The military agency in Government, and one which is entrusted with keeping our foreign relations on an even keel, naturally shrinks from some of the imaginative, fortright operations put across by Gen. "Wild Bill" Donovan's OSS during the war which had American agents working behind the German lines before U. S. troops landed at Salerno.

Nor does the State Dept. have the money and imagination to carry on some of the spectacular but effective moves conceived by Ed Stanley of the Office of War Information when thousands of matchbooks bearing MacArthur's picture were dropped over the Philippines; or when Bob Parker, also of OWI, placed thousands of Catholic Bibles bearing greetings from Americans inside the churches of Hungary.

These illustrate the type of moves which could be made to win over the Russian people.

There is no one formula for winning the peace. But if we are not to let the battle for peace by default, if we are not to fall back on the horrible expedient of dropping the atomic bomb, then both individual Americans and the American Government must map out the most consistently waged peace and propaganda campaign ever seen in the history of the world.

This may take 25 years. It may take 50. Or, as Frederick Osborn, predicts, it might conceivably take 100 years. But if peace is worth attaining, then something like this is worth working at. At any rate, it is the only alternative to an early war.

Johnson's Confidence Trick May Lead To Disaster For Us

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

FOR EVERY POUND of fat cut out of service overheads, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson has sliced away two pounds of combat muscle. This estimate is based on an expert analysis of Johnson's economy report, prepared for the House Armed Services Committee. Yet Johnson continues to claim that he is only eliminating "fancy trimmings" — and because of the technique he uses to confuse the public, a good many people continue to believe him.

Navy strength has in fact been decreased, on the basis of actual strength-in-being in 1949, by one heavy carrier, five cruisers, and one battleship reduced from combat to training status. And aside from these categories specifically named by Johnson, Navy strength has been whittled away all along the line — from 30 patrol groups to twenty, from fourteen air attack groups to nine, from twenty-three Marine fighter squadrons to 12, from 155 destroyers to 140, and so on indefinitely.

The trick which Johnson uses to convey an impression which is the precise opposite of the truth is a very simple one. Consider the sentence about increasing Navy strength quoted above. This is based on rough and inflated estimates made "by the military departments on Aug 1," of the combat reductions which the Johnsonian economies would enforce. Later estimates have shown that the Johnson program would require the retirement of one heavy cruiser instead of the four in the first rough estimate, and of five instead of six cruisers; and that it would be possible to maintain the battleship Missouri as a training ship, instead of decommissioning her entirely.

According to his standards, this permits Johnson to boast that "Navy strength is being increased," when the plain, demonstrable fact is that Naval combat power is being shartly, perhaps irreparably, reduced. This reduction is being made, moreover, even while every intelligence source indicates that the Soviet Union is making a massive effort, on a wartime footing, to produce the new Schnorkel submarines in great quantities; and even while the Caribbean maneuvers are demonstrating how desperate is the threat of the Schnorkels to Naval control of essential sea lanes.

If Johnson were saving the country from imminent economic catastrophe by his economies, there might be some excuse for this kind of horrifying risk. Yet Johnson is not even really saving very much money. According to the expert analysis of Johnson's economies referred to above, there have been $207,000,000 of perfectly genuine savings which did not affect combat strength. Another sum of $134,000,000 reflects procurement price reductions in no way affected by the Johnson program. $814,000,000 of claimed savings reflects a mixture of real savings and reductions in combat strength — probably about half of each.

Straight, unquestioned reductions in American combat strength account for $1,171,000,000 when the frozen appropriation for aircraft procurement is added to other combat reductions. This works out at a ratio of one pound of fat to very nearly two pounds of combat muscle.

Everywhere the pattern repeats itself. As "Life" magazine has pointed out, the Navy's vast mothball fleet is going to rust and ruin although a few million dollars a year would keep up all the first-rate ships that would be needed in the first twelve months of a war." Johnson sets great store by his "business-like" management of American defense. Yet any businessman who attempted to "economize" by this kind of frittering away of capital would have a brief and inglorious business career.

No sensible man doubts that the overheads of the services were badly swollen, or that in fact these overheads have been usefully reduced. But the price of these comparatively minor savings, under the Johnsonian program, has been a sharp reduction in American combat strength and the weakening of American power in the year 1950 seems downright insane. But it is worse than insane to pretend, as Johnson has consistently pretended, that America is growing stronger when America is in fact growing weaker. This sort of deception is not only irresponsible. It carries within it the seeds of outright disaster for the United States.

Voodoo Furnishings Just The Thing For House Beautiful

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

THE POSTMAN brought the tree today. That's what I said—tree. Only God can make one. I think that I shall never see. And the postman brought it. And I live in the asphalt jungles of Manhattan. A ten-foot tree, yet, she bought.

This is how they reward your loving kindness for having them on trips. They buy Hawaiian fern-trees behind your back. This tree has holes in it. In the holes you are supposed to plant plants. Why you need a tree to plant plants in I cannot say. I am not a female interior decorator. Nor am I a lumberjack, nor neither a woodpecker. I just don't NEED a tree. I will settle for the poem as lovely as.

All acquire things when they travel, generally useless little knick-knacks like balsam pillows with Kamp Kil-Kare painted on them, and maybe wooden dishes or an occasional salad bowl. This you cannot prevent, for there is a heavy magpie quotient in all dames, which leads them to collect doorknobs and save string.

But this creature of mine is not content with the trivial memento. This kid lives big. She likes kingsized memorials of her trips. Like the kava bowls from Fiji. These are iron-wood troughs about four feet wide, and they weigh just short of a ton, each. Kava is a kind of fire-water the Polynesians confect by chewing up a plant and expectorating the juice into the bowls. I got more important things to do.

NO, THANKS.

Also, they sell all kinds of happy-milk in my neighborhood, and I need two Kava bowls like I need another war.

Sometimes I begin to wonder just what manner of woman I have around the house. That tree back the Kava bowls look mighty lak the makings of a pagan ceremony, with her own jungle and ceremonial tubs to brew things in and dance around on dark nights, illuminated only by the fitful flicker of the fourteen-foot candle tree.

Oh, yes, we have an ancient Spanish candelabra from Mexico, too. This was freighted all the way East, at heaven knows what excessive shipping costs, and a mangier piece of machinery you never saw in your life. It is full of rust, iron, and its branches where you paste the candles are bent and battered, but she said it is "antique" and "stark" and a lot of other words the decorators use. To me it's strikingly sinster and starkly foreboding.

I am starting to get the creeps. There is a black thing hanging over the bed. I never looked at closely before, and it seems to be an evil African god, hewed out of ebony, we doubloon the guest of honor at many a buffet involving somebody's defunct relative. There are two little black mannikins squatting on the dresser table — and if that ain't wolfbane growing out of the window boxes I will kiss the leering Japanese idol that makes me pull the covers over my head every night.

I cannot say precisely what is going on in this house, but I have just warned the FBI that if anything happens to me, certain documents will be found in a certain strongbox.

The first time I catch her sticking pins into a little wax figurine with a swatch of my hair in it, or muttering over those bottles I always thought contained perfume, I am going to call the cops. All women collect curious things on their journeys, but mama's recent batch of pretties smack more of sorcery than of House Beautiful. Since that last package containing voodoo drums and primitive ceremonial gounds came in, I am afraid the girl had been to Cuba just one time too often.